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# Press Release

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## **SCAG URGES CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE TO ADDRESS STATE WATER ISSUES**

**LOS ANGELES – October 7, 2009** – The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) today urged the California Legislature to renew efforts to immediately address water issues facing the state.

“More than 24 million people will reside in the SCAG region by 2035. Our water supply comes from a blend of local and imported sources that will be increasingly challenged. We must take action now to seriously address the state’s water quality and supply to meet demands and sustain the overall quality of life in the region,” said SCAG Executive Director, Hasan Ikhrata.

In the SCAG region, approximately three-quarters of potable water come from imported sources. Annual water demand fluctuates in relation to available supplies and the rainfall in a given year. While there have been advances in water conservation, recycling, infrastructure, and education, it will become increasingly difficult to provide adequate water services as new developments in the SCAG region continue to occur.

“These and other challenges require that we examine and implement innovative solutions to our water challenges. This is of major importance to our state and calls for strong leadership in the state legislature as well as integrated planning, collaboration and coordination among all agencies,” Ikhrata said. “We urge the legislature to act now and have a bill for the Governor’s signature immediately.”

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### ***About SCAG***

*SCAG is the nation’s largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 189 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG’s regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).*